

four lovely children, articulate campaigner and author—a truly gracious lady.

It is my pleasure, as President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, speaking on behalf of the members of our Association—your friends and admirers all—to present to you this plaque for exemplary service to the nation and these two books of letters from your friends.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

It's such an honor to get a Distinguished Service Award from a group that epitomizes Distinguished Service.

And, I'm pleased to be a part of the 25th Annual Spring Meeting. For the last 25 years, every spring, a group of individuals have come together to reflect on—and to add to—the role they played in the oldest democracy in the world—a government that more than any other can shape life.

In or out of office, you serve your country—by your leadership, by your dedication, and by your very example.

In Congress, we entered a world of traditions. There are those who will never understand why in the midst of a heated debate that we refer to opponents as "My distinguished colleague" or "My esteemed friend from the other side of the aisle."

Though, of course, there are limits. Thaddeus Stevens (R-PA) once said, "I will now yield to my honorable colleague * * * who will make a few feeble remarks."

Then there was Senator Homer Capehart of Indiana. He once got so carried away with the rhetorical courtesies that he referred to himself as "The Distinguished Senator from Indiana."

But those of us who have been lucky enough to serve in our Nation's Capitol, know that these traditions ensure civility when we need it most.

And we also know, that when we say "good friends on the other side of the aisle * * *" that it is not only civil * * * that it is not only just tradition of our Congress * * * but something which is absolutely true.

I know that your service and your contribution hasn't stopped with your retirement from Congress. Of course, sometimes retirement is involuntary. My father, who "retired" from the Senate in 1970, likes to say, it was due to a marginal error on the part of the people of Tennessee.

There is a line attributed to Jefferson that "When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property."

That isn't always easy.

Two reasons come to my mind right away.

First, regardless of what side of the aisle you sit on—you came here with the intent to serve your constituents and your nation the best way you knew how. And not only was that your goal: it was your accomplishment.

And second, and on a more personal note, no one knows more than all of you how much you sacrificed during your time in office. You were on the road * * * working long hours * * * you were away from the family. You missed the kids' baseball games for a hearing on the budget. Instead of helping your daughter with her homework, you had to be in the Cloakroom—eating a hot dog for dinner—waiting for a vote.

Your spirit of self-sacrifice has always inspired me to remember what really matters. Serving the nation. And for me to be honored by a group of people with such noble intentions—that is the highest compliment I could be paid.

President Kennedy once said that: "Mothers all want their sons to grow up to be the President. They don't want them to become politicians in the process."

You have all been politicians. None of us has been President. But on this week after Mother's Day, I hope you feel you've made

not only your family, but your country very proud.

Mr. RUPPE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say one thing. I thought the Vice President was very, very kind and gracious to give us his time last evening. I think I can say to everyone here that his remarks certainly reflected his empathy with Members, former and present Members of the U.S. Congress.

The Speaker was bipartisan, he was gracious, he was kind, and I think he really was, as he well should have been, indeed, the highlight of that evening. I hope his friends and his family realize how important his being there and accepting that award was for all of us as former Members of Congress.

Lindy Boggs, our new president coming up.

Lindy, I just want to say how pleased we are as an association that you will be the next president, and how happy we were that you did, I'm sure, a great deal of work in getting Vice President GORE to be with us last evening. It was a marvelous evening, an outstanding event, and he was very, very gracious to join us.

I would also like to put in a statement from the Ukrainian People's Deputies of the Former Verkhovna Rada, who, for their association, extended to us their greetings at the time of their 25th anniversary:

MAY 18, 1995.

Hon. PHILIP E. RUPPE,
President, U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. RUPPE: On behalf of the Association of Ukrainian People's Deputies of Former Verkhovna Rada we want to, first of all, congratulate you and AFMC on the occasion of your 25th Anniversary. We wish you enjoyable festivities and many, many more years of success.

Secondly, we want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you and, through you, to your entire membership, first of all—Kyiv Representative of FMC Mr. Cliff Downen, for the support, both advisory and financial, that the U.S. Association of Former Members of our Association.

Our organization's meeting was held on the floor of the Verkhovna Rada on the 31st of March with the participation of the Chairman of Verkhovna Rada and almost two hundred former members. We signed up 168 member's of our Association on the first day. We look forward to working with you and other former members associations of the World in the years ahead.

Thank you again for your assistance and support.

With warm regards and our best wishes for your continued success,

PAVLO KYSLYI,
President of Association.
OLEXANDR BARABASH,
LEONID BILYI,
JURYJ GNATKEVICH,
Vice Presidents of Association.

Mr. RUPPE. Mr. Speaker, this concludes the 25th Annual Report to the Congress by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

I want to say to the Speaker that we were very honored by his warm welcome and by his generous comments to all of us here today. We want to thank those seated Members of the Congress

for their very personal greetings. It is always fun to come back on the floor and see some of the Members with whom we have served in the past, or others whom we have gotten to know via C-SPAN or other forms of media, and have the opportunity to greet them personally.

I think I can say for everyone in this group, and I certainly can say it for me, that being a Member of Congress was probably the most exciting and the most challenging moment of my life, so this, for me, and I think it is for all of us, is a rare and thoroughly enjoyable opportunity to greet old friends, to feel for a moment the majesty of this Chamber, and share with everyone here the activities of its former Members.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we want you to know that this association will continue its efforts to promote greater public understanding of and appreciation for this very uniquely American legislative body, the U.S. Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the very distinguished Member, and the statements will be conveyed to the Speaker wholeheartedly.

The Chair wishes to thank the former Members of Congress for their presence here today. I should say, before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite all those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the reading clerks for inclusion on the roll.

The Chair wishes to thank all the other former Members of the House for their presence here today. Good luck to you all.

The House will continue in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma] at 10 o'clock a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize each side for five 1-minutes.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.